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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified patent application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-28, 30-31, 38-40, 42-44, and 47-60 remain in the application. Claims 1, 28, and 38 are amended and claims 50-60 are added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Claims 4-5, 8, 29, 32-37, 41, and 45-46 remain canceled. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as conceivably applied to the amended claims are respectfully traversed.

I. Interview Summary

Applicant wishes to express its appreciation to Examiner Wendell for the courtesies extended Applicant's attorney during the personal interview on February 24, 2009. Conceptual claim amendments were discussed, and this Response presents actual claim amendments in line with those discussions. The applied art also was discussed, and the undersigned explained how the present invention is different from that art, and the combination of that art. Those explanations are set forth in this Response. Although no agreement was reached during the interview, it is respectfully submitted that upon full reconsideration Examiner Wendell will find the pending claims in condition for allowance.

II. Summary of the Invention

As defined in amended claim 1, the present invention is directed to an inductive power receiving apparatus for use with a separate portable electrical device that is not able on its

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own to receive power wireless by electromagnetic induction. The apparatus enables the device to receive power wirelessly by electromagnetic induction. And the apparatus includes an inductive power-receiving element and one or more power connectors for connecting the element to corresponding power connectors on the portable electrical device. The power receiving element is adapted to be attached to the device and further is adapted to receive power wirelessly by electromagnetic induction.

As defined in independent claim 28, the inductive power-receiving element is in the form of a sticker adapted to be attached adhesively to a surface portion of the separate portable electrical device.

As defined in independent claim 38, the present invention is a method of adapting a portable electrical device using the apparatus.

New claim 54 is a modified version of previously cancelled claim 32. As defined in claim 54, the invention is a replacement cover for a portable device that is not able on its own to receive power wirelessly through electromagnetic induction. The cover includes a body, an inductive power-receiving element on the body, and one ore more power connectors electrically connected to the power receiving element and adapted to connect to one or more corresponding power connectors of the portable electrical device. The cover enables the device to receive power wirelessly through electromagnetic induction.

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III. Prior Art Rejection

As previously presented, claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-28, 30-31, 38-40, 42-44, and 47-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication WO 96/02879 to Kikinis et al in view of U.S. Publication 2005/0192062 to Mickle et al.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant acknowledges that Mickle is prior art to the present application. Applicant regrets the incorrect assertion to the contrary in the previous Response.

In making the above-noted rejection, the Examiner refers to the Fig. 18 embodiment in Kikinis, which is described at page 33 of Kikinis. The Kikinis device 10 is a μ PDA 10 having a solar charger panel 98. The μ PDA 10 is capable of operating either (a) in stand-alone mode or (b) when docked to a host computer. See pages 11-12 and Fig. 3. The host computer can transfer data and software into and out of a docked μ PDA memory.

The Kikinis μ PDA includes a battery 15 described on page 11 as follows:

A battery 15 is the power source in the stand-alone mode, and may be recharged in one or more of several ways. The power traces are not shown in Fig. 3, but extend to all of the powered devices in the μ PDA module. When the unit is docked in the host, the host power source may be connected to pins through the host interface to recharge the battery. Alternatively, an attached means such as a solar panel may be configured to charge the battery and/or provide power to the μ PDA. A solar panel for power is described elsewhere in this disclosure. Also the battery may be easily removed for periodic replacement.

The Kikinis μ PDA further includes a solar charger 98 described on page 33 as follows:

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Solar charger 98 may be permanently wired to the circuitry of the μ PDA or attached by other means and connected to a dedicated electrical part or the expansion port. The solar charger is laced so that the μ PDA can be fully docked in a docking port with the panel in place. In other aspect [not shown], a detachable solar charger may be unplugged before docking the μ PDA, and the detachable charger may then be of a larger surface area."

As further described on page 33:

[T]he solar charger absorbs the solar energy and converts it to electricity to recharge [sic] battery 15 inside the μ PDA.

As explained during the personal interview, the μ PDA of Kikinis is entirely different from the inductive power-receiving apparatus, and the associated method, defined in amended claims 1 and 38. The μ PDA of Kikinis does not supply power to the host computer. Quite to the contrary, the μ PDA is powered by the host computer to recharge its battery 15. Consequently, the power flow in Kikinis is directly opposite to the power flow of the apparatus and method defined in these claims. So, the μ PDA in Kikinis always requires power whether it comes from the host computer or from the solar panel to charge the battery 15 within the μ PDA. The μ PDA does not provide power to any other device.

Mickle is cited only for its disclosure of an apparatus adapted to receive power wirelessly through an RF signal. As illustrated in Fig. 1 and described in paragraph 0030:

The transmission of energy 30 can be through RF. The remote station 4 has a means for receipt of the transmitted energy 30 and converting the transmitted energy 102 into DC power for energizing the power storage device 150 on the object of interest. The receipt of the transmitted energy 30 on the remote station 4 of this invention is through one or more antennae 100 on the remote station wherein at least one antenna 20 has effective antenna area 22 greater than its physical area 21.

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While Mickle admittedly discloses the RF transmission of energy, Applicant does not claim, and has never claimed, novelty in that concept *per se*. Further, Mickle adds nothing to the inadequate disclosure of Kikinis. To the extent that Mickle can be combined with Kikinis, the combination would be a μ PDA 10 that can receive power through an RF antenna rather than through a solar charger. The only conceivable result of the combination would be a μ PDA with an onboard battery charged by energy received (1) through an integral RF antenna or (2) from a host computer. The hypothetical combination would not enable a separate portable electrical device to receive power wirelessly by electromagnetic induction. Indeed, the hypothetical combination would not provide power to any separate device in any way.

Independent claims 1, 28, and 38 have been amended to more clearly define the differences between the present invention and the applied art. First, the portable electrical device is not capable on its own of receiving power wirelessly by electromagnetic induction. Second, the apparatus, is separate from the portable electrical device, but is attachable to the electrical device to enable the device to receive power wirelessly by electromagnetic induction. Third, the device includes (1) a power receiving element adapted to receive power wirelessly by electromagnetic induction and (2) one or more power connectors electrically connected to the power receiving element and adapted to be connected to one or more corresponding power connectors of the portable device.

With further regard to claim 28, Kikinis additionally does not provide any suggestion of an inductive power receiving apparatus in the form of a sticker adapted to be attached adhesively to a surface portion of a separate portable electrical device. The examiner

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asserts that this embodiment is obvious, but does not provide any supporting explanation. It is respectfully pointed out that neither Kikinis nor Mickle remotely suggests the concept of a sticker element adhesively attached to a separate device.

With regard to new independent claim 54, there is no suggestion in either Kikinis or Mickle of (1) a portable device that is not able on its own to receive power wirelessly by electromagnetic induction, (2) a replacement cover for a portable device, or (3) an inductive power receiving element on or in the body of the replacement cover and adapted to receive power wirelessly by electromagnetic induction.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of independent claims 1, 28, and 38 – and any conceivable rejection of independent claim 54 – under Section 103(a) on the basis of Kikinis and Mickle is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

The dependent claims further define the invention and are therefore allowable at least for the reasons set forth above in conjunction with their respective independent claims. Additionally, the dependent claims provide a variety of additional recitations supporting patentability.

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IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, these remarks, and the discussion during the personal interview, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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